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A. B. FAUST.

*The Relations of Pennsylvania with the British Government, 1696-1765.* By WINFRED TREXLER ROOT, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania. 1912. Pp. iv, 422.)

THIS book, like that by Professor Dickerson on *American Colonial Government*, reviewed in the AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW for July, 1912, deals primarily not with Pennsylvania, but with the British organs of imperial control, especially the Board of Trade. Within its limited field it is a model of accuracy and scholarly research. Dr. Root backs up every statement with references to manuscript sources in Great Britain and the United States, to all the chief collections of printed documents, so rapidly increasing in number, and to a wide array of secondary literature. His conclusions are cautious, and his freedom from patriotic or religious bias almost inhuman.

The volume is divided into twelve chapters, of which the first and last are an introduction and a conclusion. The others deal with: Central Institutions of Colonial Control; Administration of the Acts of Trade; the Court of Vice-Admiralty; the Royal Disallowance; the Judicial System and the Royal Disallowance; Finance and Politics; the Quaker and Anglican; Imperial Defense, 1689-1748; the French and Indian War; and Imperial Centralization. Such a division obviously involves a certain amount of repetition, but probably any other treatment except the strictly chronological would have involved at least as much, and the strictly chronological would have caused an excessive interweaving of strands. Mr. Root's general conclusion is that "the charters answered neither the purposes of the central government, nor met the demands of the colonists" (p. 381). Almost perpetual appeals to the king to take Pennsylvania under royal control were made, now by the officials of the Board of Trade or the Customs in the interest of commercial regularity, now by those of the Admiralty or of the various military departments in the interests of defense against the French and Indians, now by the Church of England against the Quakers, now by the colonists themselves against the proprietors. Dr. Root's study of British colonial administration in the eighteenth century confirms the view of Dr. Dickerson that the Board of Trade itself was at times not without vigor, and if supported would have had the charters rescinded and a system of imperial centralization introduced; but that neither Parliament nor the Privy Council would give it the necessary support. Probably in this they showed their wisdom; the fate of the experiment in centralization tried from 1765 onward would almost certainly have befallen any earlier attempt. The kindly negligence of the eighteenth-century Parliament allowed the colonies to attain a healthy, if irregular

vitality, so that when the time came, they were able to form a great nation. We must all deplore the manner of the breach, and the attendant bitterness; but no policy of imperial consolidation practicable in the eighteenth century would have afforded a happier solution.

It is a pity that Dr. Root's admirable erudition and scientific detachment are not joined to a better style. His writing is not only unformed, but frequently ungrammatical. Such a sentence as, "The frequent and voluminous letters of these royal appointees to the home government fail to reveal but little sympathy with the colonists" (p. 367), really expresses the exact opposite of his meaning.

A few unimportant mistakes in proof-reading have been noticed. The index is fairly adequate, but might with advantage be somewhat enlarged.

W. L. GRANT.

*Diplomatic Negotiations of American Naval Officers, 1778-1883.*

By CHARLES OSCAR PAULLIN, Lecturer on Naval History in the George Washington University. [The Albert Shaw Lectures on Diplomatic History, 1911.] (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1912. Pp. 380.)

At a time when naval programmes are occupying the attention of the public it is desirable to point out that the naval officer serves often most efficiently as an agent of peace. This book in which Dr. Paullin has described diplomatic negotiations in which naval officers have been concerned will enable the reader to form a judgment on the proposition recently made that naval officers who are no longer in active naval service be sent on diplomatic missions. It is to be remembered, however, that the negotiations of which the record is given were with few exceptions carried on while the officer was still in active service and had at command a force which might emphasize the demands he urged. Such evidences of power were more convincing than the oral or written arguments, particularly after the arguments had filtered through interpreters who were anxious in the less advanced states to make the requests agreeable to their sovereigns. With his fleet behind him, as Dr. Paullin says, "the sailor diplomat is preeminently a 'shirt-sleeve' diplomatist". One has merely to recall such names as John Paul Jones, Edward Preble, John Rodgers, Stephen Decatur, mentioned in the early chapters, to imagine that their policy would be direct and positive.

It might be questioned whether the career of John Paul Jones as a diplomatic agent entitles him to the attention which he receives from the author, but the chapter relating to his career well serves to point out the close relation of the diplomatic and naval service during the period of the American Revolution. As a diplomatist Jones displays another of the many sides of his character. He presses the claims for indemnity which arose in consequence of the war, yet seems eager for new activities.